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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier says a little bit of humility goes a long way

It is said a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing and that being true, then a little bit of fame is a ticking time bomb. Fame comes at a price, and while the fortune part is good, the invasion of personal space and time is not everyone's cup of tea.

Shopping at the supermarket, a quiet dinner in a restaurant or a day at the beach become just another meet and greet for the famous, if they are able to even think about those normal pursuits. A little bit of fame is a murky pond, because not everyone knows you, but enough do to afford some of the trappings of that lifestyle – free tickets to concerts and openings, invitations to VIP marquees, speaking engagements, pictures in the paper and media appearances.

The initial thrill of being recognised in the street is quite an ego boost. As history shows us, fame is intoxicating, and like that other well known intoxicant alcohol, it can impair our judgement.

Fame can be powerful and it can be destructive. It is also fleeting.

David Parkin spoke at a function recently and told of going to VicRoads, where the person in line next to him was so excited to see him he blurted out; "Excuse me, but I have to ask. Why did you go and coach GWS, Kevin?"

David also told of not being recognised by a fill-in receptionist at the Carlton Football Club where he is a three-time premiers coach, Hall of Fame member, Life Member and coach of the Team of the Century. David can laugh these incidents off, but not all do.

There is a much-told story of a celebrity at an airport check-in looking for an upgrade, doing the – "Don't you know who I am?" routine, at which time the airline attendant jumped on the PA system and announced: "Could someone please help this poor gentleman at gate 6? He does not know who he is."

Highly publicised events of recent times are probably best put into perspective by the late great E.J. Whitten, a man who rubbed shoulders with the powerful and famous but who always said: "It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice." ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au



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Briefs

Cocoroc rollover

Paramedics attended a single vehicle rollover on the Princes Freeway outside Werribee on Wednesday, February 21. Emergency crews were called to the incident near Cocoroc just before 12.15pm. An Ambulance Victoria spokeswoman said that a woman in her 30s and a toddler were assessed as being uninjured, but were taken to hospital as a precaution.

Tarneit phone theft

Police are searching for a teenager after a mobile phone theft in Tarneit about 7.30pm on February 19. A girl approached a 32-year-old man in Mirima Street and asked to use his mobile phone. When the man handed the phone over, the girl ran away with it. She is described as being of African appearance, aged 15 to 18 years, about 160-centimetres tall and wearing red shorts, a black-and-white jumper and black shoes.

Learning centre funding lift

The state government has announced an additional \$1.2 million in funding to help build the Truganina East Integrated Family Learning Centre on Mainview Boulevard, near the future Truganina East P-9 school and an existing maternal and child health centre.

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A commitment to community safety



Each of Wyndham's Councillors is responsible for a unique portfolio that guides how Council delivers a broad range of services.

Over the next few months we'll be bringing you an insight into what these portfolios are achieving and what each Councillor has planned for the future.

The Safer Communities portfolio is held by Harrison Ward's Cr Kim McAlinney, and focuses on the safety of Wyndham residents by working with organisations like Victoria Police, Crime Stoppers, Neighbourhood Watch, CPA, SES, and other agencies to explore and improve perceptions of safety across Wyndham.

Cr McAlinney said community safety wasn't as simple as just the presence or absence of crime.

"At Wyndham City, we are committed to creating cohesive and strong communities – but we can't do this alone," Cr McAlinney said.

"We will continue to work in partnership with a number of agencies and stakeholders, including our community."

"In our Safer Communities portfolio we have already achieved so much."

"We've set up quarterly meetings with Victoria Police, Crime Stoppers, and Neighbourhood Watch to develop a common understanding of the local crime statistics, discuss recorded crime and compare it to perceptions of crime, and response times."

"We also look at how we can deliver consistent messaging across multiple platforms, we share initiatives that are being piloted in different locations – both locally and abroad – and learnings from them, and developing more efficient



communication methods across partner organisations."

"Wyndham City has also participated in the State Government's Municipal Safety Forums, where we discussed a range of safety related issues and initiatives."

Cr McAlinney said that the Council worked closely with Road Safe Westgate to educate drivers, improve safety, and reduce the number of fatalities on our roads.

Cr McAlinney said the collaborative approach of the Safer Communities Portfolio Committee with a range of agencies and stakeholders as members ensured that Council was able to develop a considered response to the media attention on crime in the western suburbs earlier this year.

"All stakeholders have been able to have a broader conversation regarding younger people in our community and identified a range of inclusive actions, including out of hours activities, outreach services, safe spaces for young people, and community engagement activities."

Cr McAlinney said the Council was in the process of developing a Gender Equity strategy, with an aim of (preventing family violence) promoting health, wellbeing and opportunities across Wyndham.

"Some of the ways we aim to do this is by developing facilities and creating safe public environments, promoting cultures of non-violence, respect and gender equity," Cr McAlinney said.

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